Yeates House Site Turner's Creek, near Kennedyville c. 1740

This small frame house once stood on a narrow peninsula of land which juts eastward into Turner's Creek (the present location of Turner's Creek Picnic Pavilion). It is reputed to have been the home of Donaldson Yeates between the years 1770 and 1796.

Yeates, a merchant from New Castle, Delaware, together with Tobias Rudolph, a merchant from Cecil County, purchased the 7 acre parcel called Knocks Folly in 1770. The land had been surveyed in 1738 and patented in 1753, just after Thomas Crosby had purchased it from Henry Knock. Yeates and Rudolph had acquired it from Crosby's heir, who resided in England.

The house stood on a stone basement and had two brick chimneys, the east one within the structure and the west built outside its walls. From the evidence in the west chimney, the original kitchen or service wing was located on the west side of the building, but in the 19th century a board and batten kitchen was installed on the east gable. The entrance in the center of the three-bay facade was flanked by a pair of seats, a practice found throughout Kent County. The south side apparently always had a porch or piazza. That undoubtedly helped to preserve the original beaded featheredge clapboard siding, although the north side retained its beaded weatherboard.

The 'A' roof had two hip dormers on each side, a feature it had in

common with the Hynson-Ringgold House (c. 1743). The plan of the first floor was a hall-parlor plan with winder stair behind the paneling in the hall. The second floor plan consisted of a corridor with two tiny rooms on the north (one unlighted) and a large room on the west end. The small east room had a fireplace. All of the partitions throughout the house were beaded vertical boards with double beads, similar to those at the Buck-Bacchus Store and the Buck-Chambers House, both built soon after 1735.

The hall paneling had an elliptical headed fireplace opening surrounded by bollection molding with tall thin panels flanking the fireplace, suggesting pilasters. This was further emphasized by the crown molding breaking out only above the panels. The entire first floor was paneled, with fielded panels east of the entrance doors and vertical boards to the west.³

In the 1783 Tax Assessment, Yeates' real estate holdings at Turner's Creek are listed with 14 acres and the notation "Good Buildings and several of them." Elsewhere he held 1792 1/2 acres with 56 slaves and sixty white inhabitants thereon.

Not only was Donaldson Yeates a successful merchant at Turner's Creek, but he was actively involved in the Revolution, serving as a colonel in the Kent County Militia, 27th Battalion. He was appointed Deputy Quarter Master General of Maryland in 1780 and appears regularly in the correspondence concerning supplies for the troops. He was a member of the Lower House in the State Legislature, served as a justice of the Orphan's Court and associate judge for the County, resigning in 1794. One year prior to his resignation, he advertised in The Apollo that he was closing his

accounts and transferring his business to his nephews John Lathim and James Corrie.5

In February of 1796, Yeates wrote his will leaving his estate to his wife, Mary Syng Yeates for the education of his children and the choice of his Turner's creek real estate to his son George or John. In a codicil written about a week before his death, he stated, "It is my will and desire that the building that I am about projecting shall be fully finished and this to be done at the expense of my estate."6 This is a reference to the brick structure known as Knocks Folly, at the top of the hill.

Yeates' inventory lists store goods and two vessels held in partnership. The vessels consisted of a sloop called "The George and Eliza" (after two of his children) and a schooner called "Nancy." Debts due his estate amounted to over \$300, a third of which was due from "the United States of America" - most likely debts from the Revolution.7

After his death, Donaldson Yeates' body was buried at nearby Shrewsbury Churchyard, where he had been a vestry member in 1793 and where his son George who took over the Turner's Creek properties was to serve likewise in 1803 and 1804.

In 1970, the Yeates house was dismantled and reconstructed in Baltimore County.

1. Land Records, Lib. DD 3, fol. 530.

- 2. Forman, H. C. Early Manor and Plantation Houses, 1934.
- Certificates, Lib. GS No. 1, fol. 178; Patents, Lib. BY & GS No. 3, fol.
 473.
- Abel, Mary E. A., "Colonel Donaldson Yeates," unpublished article prepared for the DAR, Old Kent Chapter.
- 5. The Apollo or Chestertown Spy, August 3, 1793.
- 6. Wills, Lib. 7, fol. 547.
- 7. Inventories, Lib. 10, fol. 453; Lib. 11, fol. 607.
- 8. DeProspo, Katherine M., <u>A History of Shrewsbury Parish Church</u>, Chesapeake College Press, Wye Mills, 1988.

MARYLAND INVENTURY C.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No. K-116

DOE __yes __no

| 1. Nan | ne (indicate pr | referred name) | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| historic Y | eates House K | nock's Folly | | |
| | | 125 | | |
| 2 Loc | Yeates House (s | site) | | |
| 2. 100 | ation | | | |
| street & number | Turners Creek F | load | | not for publication |
| city, town | Kennedyville | vicinity of | congressional district | lst |
| state | Maryland | county | Kent | |
| 3. Clas | ssification | | | |
| Category district building(s) structure x site object | Ownership X public. private both Public Acquisition in process being considered not applicable | Status occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted _X yes: unrestricted no | Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military | museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other: |
| 4. Owr | ner of Prope | rty (give names ar | nd mailing addresses | s of <u>all</u> owners) |
| name Cou | inty Commissioners o | f Kent County | | |
| street & number | Kent County Cour | thouse | telephone no | .: 410-778-4600 |
| city, town | Chestertown | state | and zip code MD | 21620 |
| 5. Loc | ation of Leg | al Description | n | |
| courthouse, reg | istry of deeds, etc. Kent | County Courthouse | | liber EHP 47 |
| | Cross Street | | | |
| street & number | | | | folio 477 |
| | Chestertown | | state | folio 477 |
| city, town | | in Existing | state Historical Surve | MD |
| 6. Rep | Chestertown | | | MD |
| title K | Chestertown resentation | | Historical Surve | MD |
| 6. Rep | Chestertown resentation Cent County Widnshie | | Historical Surve | MD eys |

7. Description

Survey No. K-116

Condition excellent good

___ deteriorated

X unexposed

Check one unaltered X altered

Check one
X original site

_ moved date of move 1970 to Balto. Co.

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

On a small peninsula of land at the Public Landing jutting eastward into Turner's Creek stood a small early frame house reputed to have been the home of Donaldson Yeates between the years 1770 and 1796. The house was removed to Baltimore County in 1970. After that time the land was purchased by the County and is presently used for a public picnic area.

The house stood on a stone basement and had two brick chimneys, the east one within the structure and the west built outside its walls. From the evidence in the west chimney the original kitchen or service wing was located on the west side of the building, but in the 19th Century a board and batten kitchen was installed on the east gable. The entrance in the center bay of the three bay facade was flanked by a pair of seats, a practice found throughout Kent County. The south side apparently always had a porch or piazza. That undoubtedly aided in preserving the original beaded featheredge clapboard siding, although the north side retained its beaded weatherboard.

The A roof had two hip dormers on each side, a feature it had in common with the Hynson-Ringgold House (c. 1743). The plan of the first floor was a very common hall/parlor plan with winder stair behind the panelling in the hall. The second floor plan consisted of a corridor with two tiny rooms on the north (one un-lighted) and a larger room on the west end. The small east room had a fireplace. All of the partitions throughout the house were beaded vertical boards with double beads, similar to the partitions of the Buck-Bacchus Store and the Buck-Chambers House, both built soon after 1735.

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| prehistoric1400-14991500-1599 | | Areas of Significance archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art commerce communications | conservation economics education engineering | | science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify |
|-------------------------------|-------|--|--|-------------------------|--|
| Specific | dates | c. 1740 | Builder/Architect | unknown | THE Reference |
| check: | an | cable Criteria: d/or cable Exception: | A _B _C _D A _B _C _D | E F G | 30.4 |
| | Level | of Significance: | | | a meneral to a company of the compan |
| Prepare support. | both | a summary paragraph | n of significance a | and a general statement | t of history and |

The Yeates House site is important to the history of Kent County because it was an active place of business serving the needs of the locale in the second half of the 18th Century and early 19th Century. The house was built on a seven-acre tract called Knocks Folly, soon after it was surveyed in 1738. The house was an important vernacular structure showing signs of early Georgian influence in its interior. After 1770, when the property was acquired by Donaldson Yeates, merchant, the small peninsula was developed into a thriving village which served both land and sea. Yeates was also an important figure in the Revolutionary War for supplying the troops with various necessities.

Donaldson Yeates, merchant of New Castle, Delaware and Tobias Rudolph, merchant of Cecil County, purchased a seven-acre parcel called Knocks Folly in 1770. The land had surveyed in 1738 and patented in 1753, just after Thomas Crosby had purchased it from Henry Knock. Yeates and Rudolph acquired it from Crosby's heir.

In the 1783 Tax Assessment Yeates' real estate holdings at Turner's Creek are listed with 14 acres and the notation "Good Buildings and serveral of them." Elsewhere, he held 1792½ acres with 56 slaves and sixty white inhabitants thereon.

Not only was Donaldson Yeates a successful merchant at Turner's Creek, but he was actively involved in the Revolution, serving as a colonel in the Kent County Militia, 27th Battalion. He was appointed Deputy Quarter Master General of Maryland in 1780 and appears regularly in the correspondence concerning supplies for the troops. He was a member of the Lower House in the State Legislature, served as a Justice on the Orphan's Court and Associate Judge for the County, resigning in 1794. One year prior to his resignation he advertised in the Apollo that he was closing his accounts and transferring his business to his nephews John Lathin and James Corrie.

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"It is my will and desire that the building that I am about projecting shall be fully finished and this to be done at the expense of my estate."

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K116

Forman, H.C., Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland, 1934, p. 226.

| 10. Ge | ogra | phica | Data | | | | |
|---|----------|---------------|-------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Acreage of nominated property Quadrangle name UTM References do NOT complete UTM references | | | | Quadrangle scale | | | |
| A | 1141 | Northing | لبيا | В | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| C | 1 1 1 1 | | | D F H | ا لب ا لب ا لب | | |
| Verbal bound | | ni Ti | 111 | | | | » % |
| List all states | and coun | ities for pro | code | county | or cou | inty boundaries | code |
| state | | | code | county | | | code |
| 11. Fo | rm Pı | epare | d By | | 79 | × | |
| ame/title | Michael | Bourne | | | | | |
| organization | Historic | al Societ | y of Kent | County, In | c. date | e February | 1995 |
| treet & number | P.O. | Box 663 | | 150 | tele | phone 410-778 | 3–3499 |
| ity or town | Chest | ertown | | | stat | e MD |) = 4. . 5. |

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

Shaw House

21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST DHCP/DHCD

100 COMMUNITY PLACE CROWNSHIEL NO 21032-2023

814-7500

1. STATE Maryland
COUNTY Kent
TOWN Kennedyville VICINITY
STREET NO. Rt 4+8 2.5 mils worth
Rt 298, (ast side & Rond)
ORIGINAL OWNER
ORIGINAL USE dwelling
PRESENT OWNER W.O. Henderson
PRESENT USE Site
WALL CONSTRUCTION frame
NO. OF STORIES 112

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY K-116

2. NAME Years House

STYLE Colonical
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

OPEN TO PUBLIC NO

(Forman calls ; + Knock's Folly)

The house is so called due to its occupant shortly after the Revolution (if not before), Donaldson Yeats. At the Hall of Records are some of his correspondence with Annapolis...

It was a very small house-in the past tense, because it has since been removed to Baltimore where it is supposed to become a guest house for a large estate.

In Dr. Forman's "Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland", it is called "Knock's Folly". He photographed and sketched the interior woodwork which was outstanding.

The house was composed of only two rooms on the first story with a one story (19th century) board and batten kitchen onthe east side.)Originally, there was a wing on the opposite side of the

removed to Balto. Co.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered

Interior

Exterior

Removed to BA Cts 1968

€ 6. L

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

3. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.
Forman, Early Wanor + Plantation Houses
& Maryland, Privately Printed, 1934,
P. 226

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER
Michael Bourne

DATE OF RECORD 5/7

building). All walls were paneled, raised panels in most of the "Hall" and vertical beaded sheathing in the "Parlor".

Its exterior was covered with beaded clapboard which was fastened with rose-head nails. The boards were tapered and overlapped at the joint. It had two windows and a central door on each facade and rwo hipped-roof dormers on each side of the A roof. On south facade was a leanto porch with brick floor. Traces of early benches flanking the north door could be ascertained by looking closely at the clapboard. The east chimney was constructed withing the walls and the west chimney without-On the exterior part of the latter chimney, traces of a fireplace which heated the previous room could be seen.

Two tiny bed chambers were located on the second story of the building. One had a fireplace, the other was without.

The building stood on a stone foundation with a basement brneath the easst halfof the house. It was set upon a high narrow peninsula which juts out into Turners Creek. The views were outstanding, overlooking a large expanse of Turners Creek to the south and the mouth of the creek and the Massafras River to the north.

Note: the back of the "Hall" fireplace was set in herringbone brick.

Yeats House - K-116

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At the Hall of Records one some of his correspondence with duncypolis.

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the House was composed of buly two rooms but the 1st story with a fine story board + batter Witchen on the ecot side. (Originally, there was a wing on the apposite side, the levelding). All walls were parallel, received panels in mot the time. "Hall" and vertical beaded sheathing in the "Parlor"

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of the A roof. On south facade was

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generally benches flanking the North door

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within the walls and the west chim without —

On the exterior port y the letter chimney, traces

g a freplace which heated the previous room,

could be seen.

located on the 2nd story, the hundring, One had a freplace, the other was without.

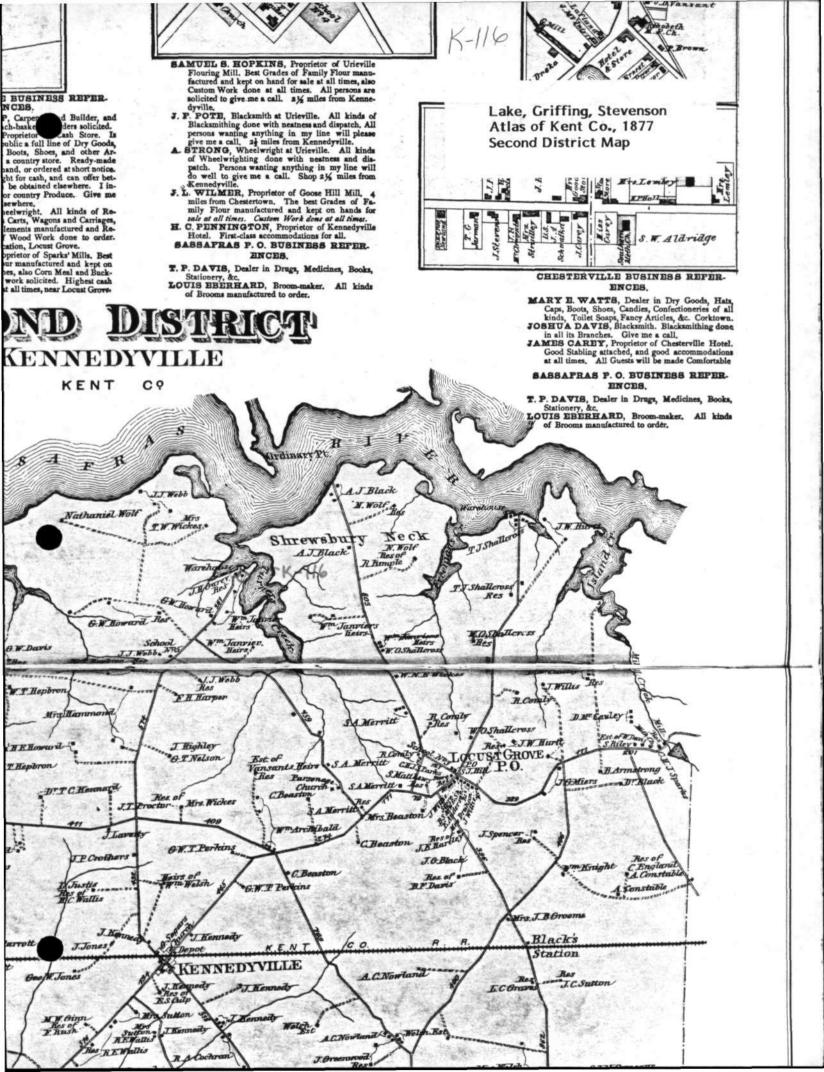
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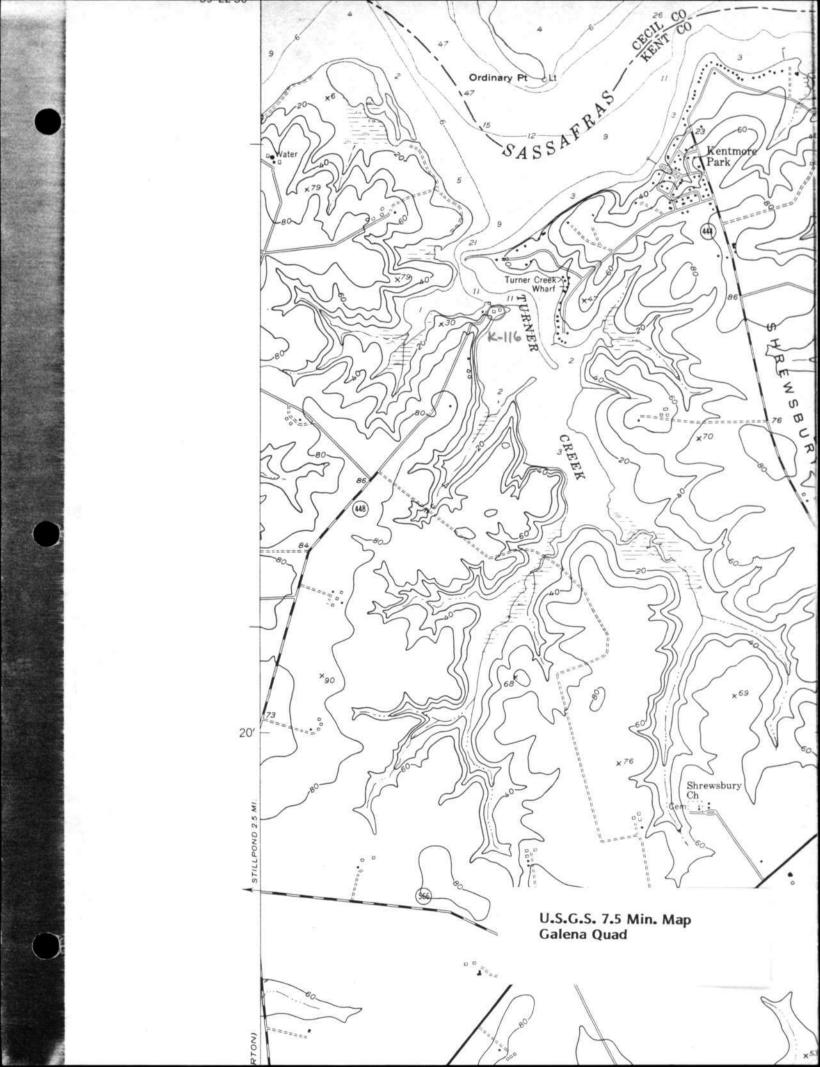
Note- the back of the "Hall" fireplace was set in herringbone brick.

MAB 5/19/70

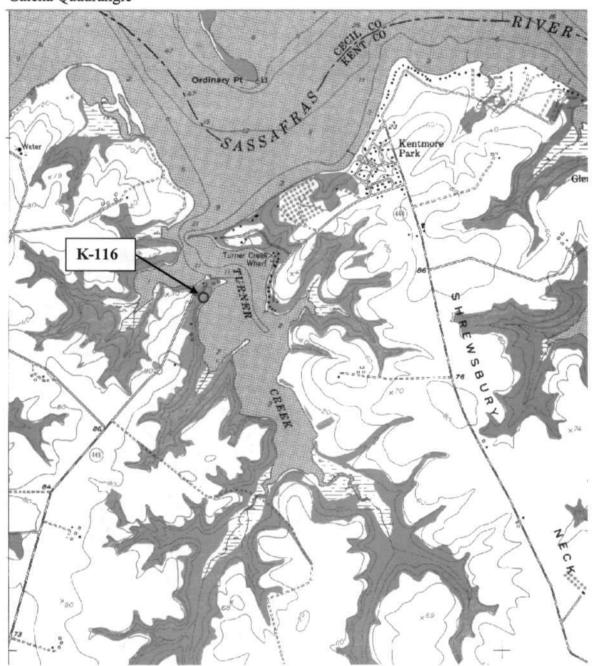
year House Removed to Ballinine CountyOK on Kentlount Mid Keg.

original selection for 6/70. by Whom W. O. Henderson Sold the house to the Architect, Bryden Hyde - thru Norman Grieb, Realtor, Chestertown, Md. called Norman Grisb7/10/20 -He said the Architect for lengto was Bryden Hyde, Baltimore





K-116 Yeats House (Moved to site in 1968) Turners Creek Road (MD 448) Galena Quadrangle





yeats House, Kent Co. 1-16

*y*₁

J. Tyler Campbell CHESTERTOWN. MARYLAND

086f 8.5 YAM

North

M. Bourne 6.1964



YEATES HOUSE K- 116

TURNERS Creek M Bourne 1964





K-116 Yeats House Turners Creek Road (MD 448) Owner's photo, copied by Michael O. Bourne 1964 Neg. on file at MHT

K-116 Yeats House Turners Creek Road (MD 448) Owner's 1938 photo, copied by Michael O. Bourne 1964